



TIMBERLINE TRAIL PROJECT

Public Comment Summary

June 2009



Introduction

This handout summarizes public comments regarding the Timberline Trail Project that were obtained from a public meeting held on Wednesday, May 13, 2009. The meeting took place at Cromer Elementary School on Silver Saddle Road in Flagstaff. It was advertised on County and Forest websites; County PSA distribution; Summit Fire District and Doney Park Water newsletters; and postcards mailed to previous participants. Coconino County hosted the meeting with assistance from Coconino National Forest. Approximately 53 people attended. They heard a review of public comments received at the January 14th public meeting. Jim Driscoll (Sheriff's Office), Sam Whitted (Summit Fire District), Liz Archuleta (District 2 Supervisor), Michael Chaveas (USFS), and Todd Graeff (Parks & Recreation Director) answered questions. Attendees were invited to submit additional remarks about the project on public comment cards.

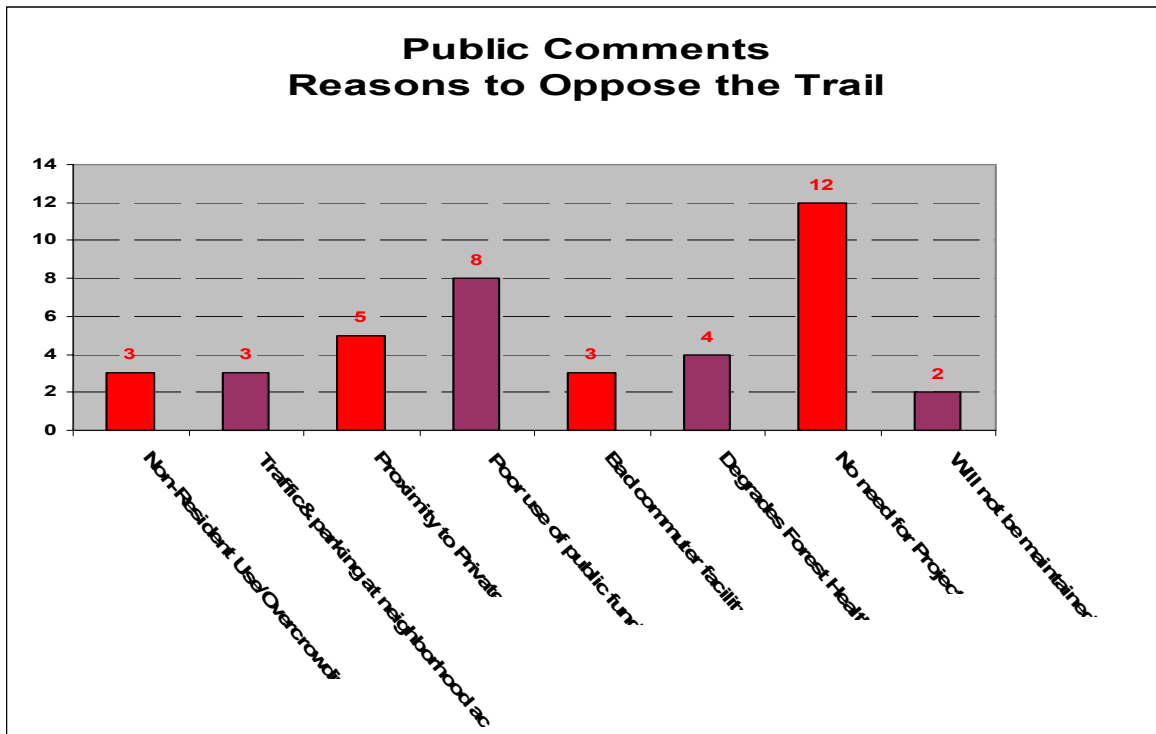
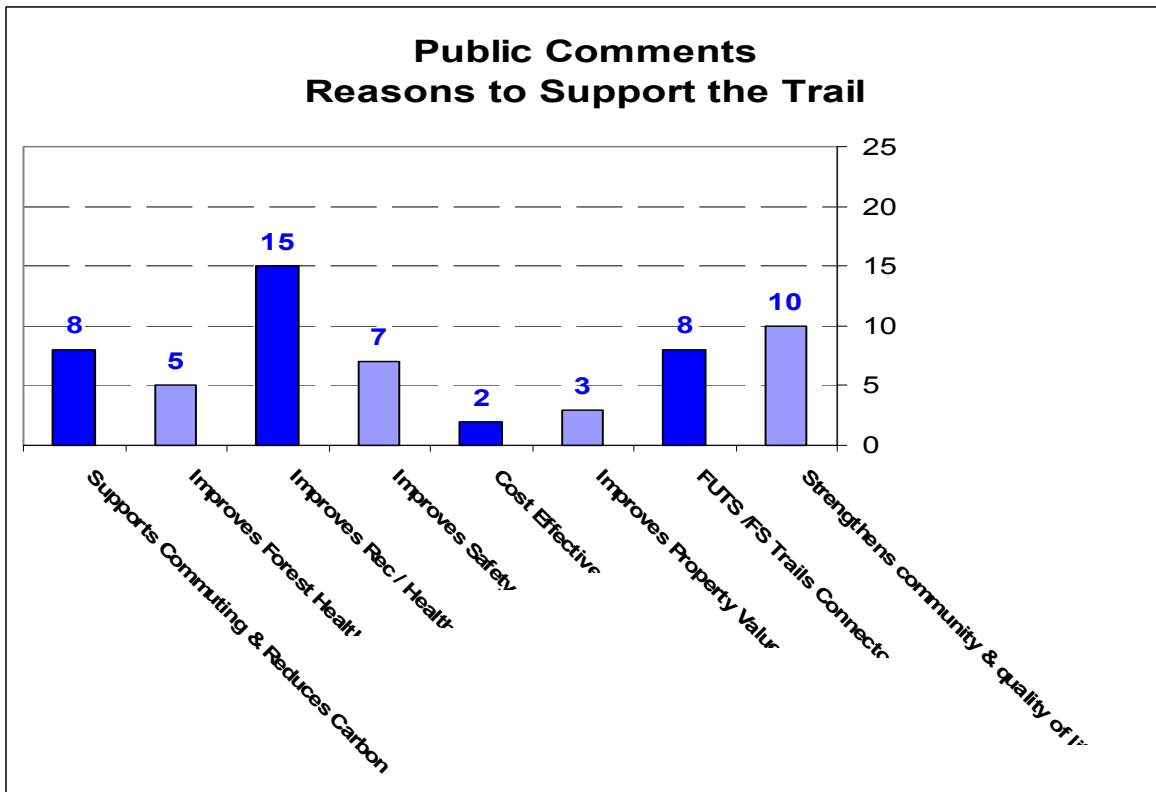
Public Comment Summary

Thirty-two (32) attendees submitted comments at the meeting and eight comments were received just before/afterward via e-mail or letter to the U.S. Forest Service and/or Coconino County.

Comments were collated into a data index that lists persons who provided comment, the comment verbatim, and a display of the issues addressed in each comment. The data index is posted on the County's website.

As with the January 14th public meeting, participants were about equally divided between support and opposition. Fifty percent (20) support the project and 43% (17) oppose it. Only three persons expressed indecision. The top two reasons to support the trail are (a) improves health and recreation opportunities, and (b) strengthens community and quality of life. The top two reasons for opposing the trail are (a) no need for project, and (b) poor use of public funds. Charts summarizing opinions expressed are included in this handout.

Identified Benefits & Issues



Recommendation

The top suggestion received was to build a commuter path along Highway 89. This suggestion was endorsed by residents on both sides of the issue, that is folks who wish a commuter facility would be built in addition to the recreation trail as well as people who think the commuter facility should be the only new amenity. In all, eight persons (20%) endorsed this suggestion.

For Additional Information

To access the compiled datasheet from which this summary was created, go to the County Parks' website located at <http://www.coconino.az.gov/parks/> and follow the links to the webpage about Timberline Trail.

Next Steps

Based on the public comments and other pertinent information, a recommendation of how to proceed with this project will be presented to the District Ranger at the Peaks Ranger District, Coconino County Manager, and County Supervisors of Districts Two and Four.

Meeting Agenda



Public Meeting for the Proposed Timberline Trail

**Wednesday, May 13, 2009
6-8pm at Cromer School
Flagstaff, Arizona**

Agenda



I. Getting started

- Welcome and introductions, County Supervisor Mandy Metzger
- Purpose of this meeting and ground rules, County Supervisor Liz Archuleta
- Review of January public meeting comments & May trail hike, P&R Director Todd Graeff
- Forest's role & viewpoint, USFS Deputy District Ranger Michael Chaveas

II. Question & answer panel

County Manager Steve Peru collects question cards and facilitates panelists SO Chief Deputy Jim Driscoll, SFD Deputy Chief Sam Whitted, Supervisor Archuleta, Deputy District Ranger Chaveas, and Director Graeff

III. Gathering additional responses

- Supervisors Archuleta & Metzger receive additional comments and staff record on flip charts
- Attendees invited to fill in a comment card to provide additional input and turn them in to supervisors before leaving

IV. Next steps

Supervisors Archuleta and Metzger